



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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July 6, 2004

TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – M AND R  
GROUP HOME, M AND R MOTIVATIONAL CENTER**

We have completed a review of M and R Motivational Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by M and R Group Homes. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

M and R Motivational Center is a six-bed facility, which provides care for children ages 12-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, M and R Motivational Center was providing services for four Los Angeles County DCFS children and two San Bernardino County DCFS children. M and R Motivational Center is located in the First District.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to determine whether the Agency was providing the services outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues, and included an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, facility inspections, and interviews with two children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

**Summary of Findings**

The Agency was providing all the services outlined in their Program Statement.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC:asl

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Mary Robinson, Executive Director, M and R Group Home  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**M and R Group Home  
M and R Motivational Center  
8 Deer Creek Road  
Phillips Ranch, Ca 91766  
Phone: (909) 595-9610  
License No.: 197804346  
Rate Classification Level: 10**

**I. Facility and Environment**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The M and R Motivational Center Group Home (Group Home or Agency) is located in a residential community. The Group Home is clean, spacious, and comfortable. The Group Home is well maintained, nicely landscaped, and blends well with the other homes on the block. There were no observable safety hazards.

The interior of the Group Home is generally neat and clean. The décor provides a home-like atmosphere. The common rooms are nicely decorated and maintained. The resident bedrooms are spacious, comfortable, and personalized to each child's desire with posters, pictures, and knick-knacks.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a VCR. There are books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs.

There is a sufficient supply of frozen food, meat, canned goods, bakery items, and fresh fruit. The food is accessible, appropriately dated, and properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**II. Program Services**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The residents meet the Agency's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Residents receive complete initial diagnostic assessment after being admitted into the Agency's program.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) are current, realistic, measurable, and time specific. The children and their placement workers have the opportunity to participate in developing and updating the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports are current, comprehensive, and focused on the goals of the NSPs.

The residents are provided with psychological testing, emotional, and developmental counseling as required by the Program Statement. Both residents are receiving individual and group therapy.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**III. Educational and Emancipation Services****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews****Sample size for resident interviews: Two****Comments:**

The residents attend a local school. Both records contain current semester report cards and/or progress reports for the residents. Residents reported that they are provided with a sufficient amount of daily educational stimulation away from school and feel that the Group Home is supportive of their academic progress.

The Agency's program includes the development of residents' daily living skills. The residents are involved in the planning and preparation phase of meals. Hygiene care is discussed as needed and employment preparation encouraged.

Residents are offered the opportunity to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Residents have the opportunity to work and manage their own money.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**IV. Recreation and Activities**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

**Comments:**

The Agency provides its residents opportunities to participate in recreational activities. The residents expressed satisfaction with the recreational activities and stated that the recreation schedules are followed.

The Group Home utilizes local community organizations for recreational and program resources. The residents reported that they participate in planning some of the activities. The residents have free time and are able to participate in self-selected activities.

Transportation is provided to and from the activities.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**V. Psychotropic Medication**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**Comments:**

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information was appropriately documented.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VI. Personal Rights**

### **Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The residents expressed satisfaction with the Agency and its staff. Residents participate in an initial orientation, and the Group Home's policies and procedures are posted. Residents reported that they feel safe in the Group Home and that there is no interference with daily living functions.

Residents reported satisfaction with the taste of the food and with their ability to participate in menu development. They reported that there is sufficient staff supervision and express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with most staff. Residents feel there is at least one staff member they can easily talk to and trust.

The residents report that they are assigned chores to complete on a daily basis that are reasonable and not too demanding. Residents are able to have visitors and make and receive personal telephone calls. They are permitted to contact their social workers, attorneys, and family members as needed. Residents are able to attend weekly religious services of their choice and they feel that the Agency is respectful of their cultural lifestyles and allows them to celebrate different holidays.

Residents reported that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

The residents are aware of their right to refuse medication.

#### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **VII. Clothing and Allowance**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Two**

#### **Comments:**

The Agency provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. The Group Home supplies its residents with the required \$50 monthly

clothing allowance and the residents are given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to residents is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Agency provides residents with the required minimum base allowance, which they are able to increase according to the Agency's behavioral system. Residents are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Agency provides residents with adequate personal care items and adequate storage.

Residents are provided with an opportunity to maintain photo albums/life books.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**